

THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A method of communicating activity information to support user interaction in a communication network, the method comprising:

receiving at least one condition, at a first location, the at least one condition defining when an indication of media consumption activity is sent by the first location to at least a second location, via the communication network;

receiving a request for media consumption, from a first user at the first location;

upon at the time of said receiving the request for media consumption, from the first user at the first location, sending at least one indication of media consumption activity to a second user at the at least a second location, via the communication network, if the at least one condition is met, to enable interaction of the first user and the second user during media consumption by the first user; and

refraining from sending at least one indication of media consumption activity to the second user at least a the second location, via the communication network, if the at least one condition is not met.

2. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein each of the first location and the ~~at least a~~ second location are associated with one or more of an Internet protocol (IP) address, a media access control (MAC) address, and/or an electronic serial number (ESN).

3. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the communication network comprises one or more of a cable infrastructure, a satellite network infrastructure, a

digital subscriber line (DSL) infrastructure, an Internet infrastructure, an intranet infrastructure, a wired infrastructure, and/or a wireless infrastructure.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the communication network is the Internet.

5. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the media comprises one or more of audio, a still image, video, real time video, and/or data.

6. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein consumption comprises one or more of playing audio, displaying a still image, displaying video, and/or displaying data.

7. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising: receiving an identifier identifying the ~~at least a~~ second location; and the identifier comprising one or more of a legal name, a given name, a screen name, a user identifier, a network identifier, an Internet protocol (IP) address, a media access control (MAC) address, and/or an electronic serial number.

8. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the at least one condition comprises one or more of a day, a date, a time, time period, a user identifier, a source of media being accessed, a media channel type, a mode, a media format, a genre, a language, a subject, and/or an artist.

9. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the at least one indication of media consumption activity comprises one or more of a title, a subject, a user identifier, a source of media being accessed, a media channel type, a mode, a media format, a genre, a language, a subject, and/or an artist.

10. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the at least one condition is received from a location remote from the first location, via the communication network.

11. (Currently amended) A method of communicating activity information to support user interaction in a communication network, the method comprising:

receiving at least one condition used to determine when a first user is notified, via the communication network, of the receipt at a first location of an indication of media consumption activity of a second user at at least a second location;

receiving, at the first location, at least one indication of media consumption activity, from the second user at at least the second location;

upon at the time of receiving a request for the at least one indication of media consumption activity from the second user at the second location, notifying the first user, at the first location, of the receipt of the at least one indication of media consumption activity, if the at least one condition is met met, to enable interaction of the first user and the second user during media consumption by the second user; and

refraining from notifying the first user, at the first location, of the receipt of the at least one indication of media consumption activity, if the at least one condition is not met.

12. (Currently amended) The method of claim 11 wherein each of the first location and the ~~at-least-a~~ second location are associated with one or more of an Internet protocol (IP) address, a media access control (MAC) address, and/or an electronic serial number (ESN).

13. (Previously presented) The method of claim 11 wherein the communication network comprises one or more of a cable infrastructure, a satellite network infrastructure, a digital subscriber line (DSL) infrastructure, an Internet infrastructure, an intranet infrastructure, a wired infrastructure, and/or a wireless infrastructure.

14. (Original) The method of claim 11 wherein the communication network is the Internet.

15. (Previously presented) The method of claim 11 wherein the media comprises one or more of audio, a still image, video, real time video, and/or data.

16. (Previously presented) The method of claim 11 wherein consumption comprises one or more of playing audio, displaying a still image, displaying video, and/or displaying data.

17. (Currently amended) The method of claim 11 further comprising: receiving an identifier identifying the second user at the ~~at-least-a~~ second location; and the identifier comprising one or more of a legal name, a given name, a screen name, a user identifier, a

network identifier, an Internet protocol (IP) address, a media access control (MAC) address, and/or an electronic serial number.

18. (Previously presented) The method of claim 11 wherein the at least one condition comprises one or more of a day, a date, a time, time period, a user identifier, a source of media being accessed, a media channel type, a mode, a media format, a genre, a language, a subject, and/or an artist.

19. (Previously presented) The method of claim 11 wherein the at least one indication of media consumption activity comprises one or more of a title, a subject, a user identifier, a source of media being accessed, a media channel type, a mode, a media format, a genre, a language, a subject, and/or an artist.

20. (Previously presented) The method of claim 11 wherein the notifying comprises one or more of displaying an image, generating sound, and/or illuminating a light emitting diode representing the receipt of the at least one activity indication.

21. (Currently amended) The method of claim 11 further comprising: initiating, from the first location, an exchange of streaming media between the first location and the ~~at least a~~ second location, if the at least one condition is met; and refraining from initiating, from the first location, an exchange of streaming media between the first location and the ~~at least a~~ second location, if the at least one condition is not met.

22. (Currently amended) A system supporting the communication of activity information to support user interaction in a communication network, the system comprising:

a television display, at a first location, to support the consumption of media by a first user;

a storage, at the first location, communicatively coupled to the television display, and having an associated first network address;

set top box circuitry, at the first location, the set top box circuitry communicatively coupling the television display to the communication network;

at least one user defined identifier identifying a second user at ~~at least~~ a second location;

at least one user defined condition for notifying the first user; and

software that receives at least one indication of media consumption activity from the second user at the ~~at least a~~ second location, via the communication network, and that responds by notifying the first user at the time of receipt of the at least one indication of media consumption activity and if the at least one user defined condition is met ~~upon receipt of a request for media consumption to enable interaction of the first user and the second user during media consumption by the second user~~, and that refrains from notifying the first user if the at least one user defined condition is not met.

23. (Previously presented) The system of claim 22 wherein the media comprises one or more of audio, a still image, video, real time video, and/or data.

24. (Previously presented) The system of claim 22 wherein consumption comprises one or more of playing audio, displaying a still image, displaying video, and/or displaying data.

25. (Previously presented) The system of claim 22 wherein the associated first and second network addresses are one of an Internet protocol (IP) address, a media access control (MAC) address, or an electronic serial number (ESN).

26. (Previously presented) The system of claim 22 wherein the communication network comprises one or more of a cable infrastructure, a satellite network infrastructure, a digital subscriber line (DSL) infrastructure, an Internet infrastructure, an intranet infrastructure, a wired infrastructure, and/or a wireless infrastructure.

27. (Previously presented) The system of claim 22 wherein the at least one user defined identifier comprises one or more of legal name, a given name, a screen name, a user identifier, a network identifier, an Internet protocol (IP) address, a media access control (MAC) address, and/or an electronic serial number.

28. (Original) The system of claim 22 wherein the at least one user defined condition comprises a day, a date, a time, time period, a user identifier, a source of media being accessed, a media channel type, a mode, a media format, a genre, a language, a subject, and an artist.

29. (Previously presented) The system of claim 22 wherein the at least one indication of media consumption activity comprises one or more of a title, a subject, a user identifier, a source of media being accessed, a media channel type, a mode, a media format, a genre, a language, a subject, and/or an artist.

30. (Currently amended) A method of communicating activity information to support user interaction in a communication network, the method comprising:

~~upon at the time of~~ receiving a request for media consumption from a first user at a first location, sending at least one indication of media consumption activity to a second user at a first second location, via a communication network, if at least one condition received from the first user at a second the first location and defining when an indication of media consumption activity is sent ~~[[by]]~~ to the second user at the second location ~~[[to]]~~ by ~~at least the first location is met~~ met, to enable interaction of the first user and the second user during media consumption by the first user; and

refraining from sending at least one indication of media consumption activity to the first second location if the at least one condition received at the ~~second~~ first location and defining when the indication of media consumption activity is sent by the ~~second~~ first location to at least the first second location is not met.

31. (Previously presented) The method of claim 30 wherein each of the first location and the second location are associated with one or more of an Internet protocol (IP) address, a media access control (MAC) address, and/or an electronic serial number (ESN).

32. (Previously presented) The method of claim 30 wherein the communication network comprises one or more of a cable infrastructure, a satellite network infrastructure, a digital subscriber line (DSL) infrastructure, an Internet infrastructure, an intranet infrastructure, a wired infrastructure, and/or a wireless infrastructure.

33. (Previously presented) The method of claim 30 wherein the communication network is the Internet.

34. (Previously presented) The method of claim 30 wherein the media comprises one or more of audio, a still image, video, real time video, and/or data.

35. (Previously presented) The method of claim 30 wherein consumption comprises one or more of playing audio, displaying a still image, displaying video, and/or displaying data.

36. (Previously presented) The method of claim 30 further comprising: receiving an identifier identifying the first location; and the identifier comprising one or more of a legal name, a given name, a screen name, a user identifier, a network identifier, an Internet protocol (IP) address, a media access control (MAC) address, and/or an electronic serial number.

37. (Previously presented) The method of claim 30 wherein the at least one condition comprises one or more of a day, a date, a time, time period, a user identifier, a source

of media being accessed, a media channel type, a mode, a media format, a genre, a language, a subject, and/or an artist.

38. (Previously presented) The method of claim 30 wherein the at least one indication of media consumption activity comprises one or more of a title, a subject, a user identifier, a source of media being accessed, a media channel type, a mode, a media format, a genre, a language, a subject, and/or an artist.

39. (Previously presented) The method of claim 30 wherein the at least one condition is received from a location remote from the second location, via the communication network.

40. (Currently amended) A system supporting the communication of activity information to support user interaction in a communication network, the system comprising:

set top box circuitry at a first location; and

software that receives at least one indication of media consumption activity from a second user at a second location, via a communication network, and that responds by notifying a first user at the first location at the time of receipt of the at least one indication of media consumption activity to enable interaction of the first user and the second user during media consumption by the second user, if at least one user defined condition for notifying the first user at the first location is met upon receiving a request for media consumption, and that refrains from notifying the first user at the first location if the at least one user defined condition for notifying the first user at the first location is not met.

41. (Previously presented) The system of claim 40 wherein the media comprises one or more of audio, a still image, video, real time video, and/or data.

42. (Previously presented) The system of claim 40 wherein consumption comprises one or more of playing audio, displaying a still image, displaying video, and/or displaying data.

43. (Previously presented) The system of claim 40 wherein the communication network comprises one or more of a cable infrastructure, a satellite network infrastructure, a digital subscriber line (DSL) infrastructure, an Internet infrastructure, an intranet infrastructure, a wired infrastructure, and/or a wireless infrastructure.

44. (Previously presented) The system of claim 40 wherein the at least one indication of media consumption activity comprises one or more of a title, a subject, a user identifier, a source of media being accessed, a media channel type, a mode, a media format, a genre, a language, a subject, and/or an artist.